

Remarks

The Office Action mailed September 23, 2005 and made final has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment is submitted in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-13, 15 and 16 are now pending in this application, of which claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 16 have been amended. Claim 10 is cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

The rejection of claims 1-7, 9-13, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Johanson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,947,964) is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action cites Figure 2 and 10 of the Johanson et al. reference as disclosing certain features of the invention.

The embodiment of Figure 2 of Johanson et al. is cited against claim 1. Specifically, element (14) of Johansson et al. Figure 2 is cited as corresponding to the body of claim 1, and element (18) of Johansson et al. Figure 2 is cited in the Office Action as corresponding to the fingers of claim 1. Applicants note that Johanson et al. describe the element (14) as a connector post coupled to a panel (10). The post includes legs (15) and (16) joined together to form a cylinder at a base end thereof. A cylindrical collar (17) extends below the base of the joined legs (15), (16) and the collar (17) snugly extends in an aperture of in the panel (10). The end portion of the collar (17) is rolled to form an annular flange (18) that bears against an underside of the panel (10) and firmly anchors the post (14) against the panel (10). See Johansson et al. col. 2, lines 40-55 and Figures 2 and 5.

Claim 1 has been amended for clarity and now recites an electrical contact comprising a body with a top surface, a bottom surface, and opposing side edges, said body including opposing first and second retention fingers formed integrally with said body and having respective distal ends, said first and second retention fingers positioned between the side edges and the respective distal ends being separated from one another, each of said first and second retention fingers adapted to secure said body to a single surface of an insulative carrier when said first and second retention fingers are inserted through the carrier and crimped into engagement with said carrier,

wherein said distal ends of said first and second retention fingers face away from one another when crimped to said carrier.

The post (14) and the annular flange (18) clearly do not meet the recitations of claim 1. The post (14) is cylindrical and is not fairly characterized as having opposed side edges. Additionally, the Johanson et al. post includes a single annular flange (18) formed on the cylindrical collar in a continuous manner that encircles the end of the collar (17). The single flange is not fairly characterized as "opposing first and second retention fingers formed integrally with said body and having respective distal ends, said first and second retention fingers positioned between the side edges and the respective distal ends being separated from one another" as claim 1 recites. To the extent that an outer periphery of the annular flange (18) could be considered a distal end at all (a position which Applicants submit is not appropriate because an annulus does not have not have an end), the opposing portions of the outer periphery still would not meet the recitations of claim 1 because the outer periphery extends continuously around the cylindrical collar (17) and does not constitute two ends separated from one another.

Additionally, claim 1 now recites that "said first and second retention fingers are inserted through the carrier and crimped into engagement with said carrier, wherein said distal ends of said first and second retention fingers face away from one another when crimped to said carrier." The cylindrical post (14) of Johanson et al. is not crimped to the panel (10), but rather is "rolled laterally" to form the annular flange (18) to anchor the post (14) to the panel (10). It is questionable, to say the least, that an annular flange could be formed with crimping techniques.

Claim 1 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Johanson et al.

Claims 2-7 and 9 depend from claim 1, and when the recitations of claims 2-7 and 9 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, claims 2-7 and 9 are likewise submitted to be patentable over Johanson et al.

Claim 10 is cancelled.

Moreover, claim 2 further recites that the body defines a longitudinal axis, the body further comprising a wire retainer extending from said body along the longitudinal axis, said wire

retainer configured to receive a wire along the longitudinal axis and parallel to the single surface of the carrier. The post (14) of Johanson et al. is electrically connected to a printed circuit trace (11) of the panel (10). The post (14) is therefore not fairly characterized as receiving the trace, and in any event it is clear from Figure 2 of Johanson et al. that the trace (11) extends on the surface of the panel (10) in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the post (14).

Claim 7 recites that the retention fingers are stamped from an interior of said body and are bent to engage a single surface of said carrier. The annular flange (18) of the Johanson et al. post (14) is not stamped, but rather is "laterally rolled" as discussed above.

Claim 9 recites that at least one of said first and second retention fingers comprises an arcuate portion extending between the body and the respective distal end of the at least one retention finger, and further wherein the arcuate portion is spaced from the carrier such that only the distal end of the at least one retention finger is in contact with the single surface of the carrier. The Johanson et al. connector post (14) does not meet this recitation. For the reasons set forth above, the annular flange (18) of the post does not include distal ends, and in any event the annular flange (18) fully abuts the panel (10) as depicted in Figure 2, and is not spaced from the panel (10) in any portion thereof.

The embodiment of Figure 10 of Johanson et al. is cited against claim 11. Element (37) has been cited as corresponding to the body of claim 11, and elements (45), (46) are cited as corresponding to the lances of claim 11.

Claim 11 has been amended for clarity and now recites an electrical connector comprising at least one contact having a substantially planar body with a top surface, a bottom surface, and side edges, said body including at least a pair of lances formed integrally with said substantially planar body and extending at an angle from said substantially planar body, said lances being spaced from one another and spaced from the side edges, said lances configured to secure said body to an insulative carrier, said carrier including a first surface and a second surface, said bottom surface of said body provided on said first surface of said carrier and extending substantially parallel to the first surface; wherein said lances are crimped to said second surface.

Element (37) of Johanson et al. is clearly not a substantially planar body with a top surface, a bottom surface, and side edges as claim 11 recites. Rather, as depicted in Figures 10, 11, and 14 of Johanson et al., the element (37) has an irregular three dimensional shape including spaced spring legs (38) and (39) of different lengths, a web (42) interconnecting the spring legs (38) and (39), and a lug (33) extending obliquely to the plane of the web (42). Ears (45) and (46) extend downwardly from the spring leg (39) in a substantially perpendicular fashion. Viewed in its entirety, the element (37) has no readily discernible side edges. Considering the portions of element (37) individually, only the spring leg (39) might correspond to the recited body of claim 11, but the leg (39) fails to meet the recitations of claims 11 because the ears (45) and (46) are not spaced from the side edges of the leg (39) as is clearly shown in Figures 13 and 14. Claim 11 recites that the lances are spaced from one another and spaced from the side edges of the body.

Claim 11 is therefore respectfully submitted to be neither described nor suggested by Johanson et al.

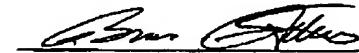
Claims 12-13 and 15-16 depend from claim 1, and when the recitations of claims 12-13 and 15-16 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, claims 12-13 and 15-16 are likewise submitted to be patentable over Johanson et al.

Moreover, claim 12 recites a wire retainer extending from said substantially planar body along a longitudinal axis thereof, said wire retainer configured to receive a wire extending substantially parallel to the first surface. It is clear that lug (43) of Johanson et al. does not extend along a longitudinal axis of the Johanson et al. connector (37) but rather extends at an angle thereto. Further, the lug (43) if connected to a wire, would appear to receive the wire along an axis extending obliquely to the panel (10). Claim 12 recites that the wire retainer is configured to receive a wire extending substantially parallel to the first surface of the carrier.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that the Section 102 rejection of claims 1-7, 9-13, 15, and 16 as unpatentable over Johanson et al. be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce T. Atkins
Armstrong Teasdale, LLP
One Metropolitan Square
Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
314-621-5070